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H.F.M

Selections from Confidential files

Relating to Interception of Correspondence of Political Personalities.

1936-1940

(PAGES 1-32)

No. 100

Inception of
Correspondence of Political
personalities (From 1936
to 1940)

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Selections from Confidential Files relating to Inception of Correspondence of Political Personalities. (From 1936 to 1940)

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In the interests of Public safety and tranquility in the Madras Presidency His Excellency the Governor in Council directed under Section 26 (1) of the Indian Post office Act 1898, that all postal articles addressed to or emanating from the following persons should be intercepted in the course of transmission by post and detained and delivered to the Superintendent of Police special branch, C.I.D., Madras for his Examination.

(1) V.SANKARANARAYANA PILLAI:-- Tuticorin - Correspondence intercepted continously for a period of five years from 25-1-1936 to 12th April 1941. Reason - An active communist engaged in labour agitation having correspondence with communists in other Provinces.

(2) Rash Behari Bose of - Tokyo :-- A Bengal revolution living in exite in Japon.- Interception of Correspondence from 18-11-1936 to 31st Oct. of 1941 - To prevent him from Corresponding with persons and newspaper editors in Madras Province.

(3) A.KAMESVARA RAO:-- Guntur - Provincial Organizer of the Andhra Provincial Congress socialist party - Active communist spreading the communist doctrine secretly among the untouchables - Correspondence intercepted from 25-11-1936 to 5th December 1941. - To Prevent getting Prohibited literature from Russia and contacting with Communist in other parts of India.

(4) K.ANANTA CHARI:-- Trichinopoly - Correspondence intercepted from 23-11-1936 to 6th December 1941. - a dangerous underground communist busily engaged in organising Railway labour union - to prevent close touch with communists of other places.

(5) P. SUNDARARAMA REDDI and P.V. RAMACHANDRA REDDI Nellore - Co mmunist Brothers - Fromer is an exceedingly activ

underground communist - Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Congress Socialist party - Correspondence intercepted from 28-7-1936 to 10-1-1941 - Engaged vigorously in saving the seeds of communism in various political organizations such as youth leagues labour protection leagues etc.,

(6) S.V. GHATE :-- Triplicane Madras - A very active Communist directing the underground activities of the Socio-communists in this Presidency - He has wide correspondence with communists all over India - Endeavouring to bring labour unions under socialist influence - He had a great deal to do with the texite strikes in Combatore - Has been responsible for the circulation of party literature and has been secretly influencing students correspondence intercepted from 7-12-1937 to 23-1-1941.

(7) Serving British soldiers. The Director Intelligence Bureau New Delhi requested the Madras Government that letters addressed to Moscow by serving soldiers be subjected to secret censorship. On that basis the Madras Government directed the interception of correspondence of the serving British soldiers from 6-12-1937 to 11-11-1941. The Communication from Delhi reads as follows. " As the Army authorities in India are interested in attempts to spread communist propaganda among British troops. . . "

(8) K.SATYARANAYANA:-- Bezawada - a very active socio-communist - secretary of the Andhra Congress Socialist party - Engaged in forming labour unions in the East Godawari district An active member of the neo-man society an anti-imperiolist organization whose object is to bring about revolution on communist lines - correspondence intercepted from 19-5-1937 to 23-5-1941.

(9) E.M. SANKARA NAMBUDRIPAD:- Malabar - Secretary of the Congress socialist party - An active communist engaged in political activities - Correspondence intercepted from 3-5-1937 to 20-4-1941 - He has correspondence with leading communists in other parts of India.

(10) Mrs. KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYAYA :-- Mangalore - A very active Congress Socialist and an important political and labour agitator in South Kanara - Correspondence intercepted from 23-4-1937 to 17-4-1941 - to prevent contact with communist in other parts of India by means of letters.

(11) K.SRINIVASAN:-- Mylapore Madras - Student Pro-German - He is in correspondence with communists both abroad and in India. - Carrying on propaganda and receiving prohibited literature from Russia - Correspondence intercepted from 13-2-1937 to 24-7-1941.

(12) A.S.K. AYYANGAR:-- George Town Madras - Active communist - Correspondence intercepted from 22-1-1937 to 16-1-1941.

(13) P.Ramamurthy:-- Triplican Madras - active communist under the direction of S.V. Ghate-correspondence intercepted from 19-3-1937 to 5-3-1941.

(14) A.M.SAHAY:-- Kobe Japan - Correspondence intercepted from 20-6-1938 to 20-6-1941 He is corresponding with persons in India and sending objectionable literature.

(15) P.Krishna Pillai:-- Chalapuram, Kerala - General secretary Kerala Congerss Socialist party - Prominent labour agitator - An active communist who has gone "under Ground" Interested himself in the peasants agitation in North Malabar - Correspondence intercepted from 20th April 1938 to 28th March 1941.

(16) Circular letter from Bureau :-- National Arabe

Interception was ordered in Madras province from 19-5-1938 to 20-4-1940 as the contents of this letter was (it was thought) likely to arouse muslim feelings in India against the British Government - " This circular contains a manifest issued by the minister of Justice Iraq , calling upon the officials of the Iraq Government to give their mite for the help of the oppressed people of Polestine and a representation to H.Mis. Consul, Damascus Condemning the atrocities perpetrated in Palestine and warning the the British against the sacrilege of Islamic holy places- It concludes by extolling the strength and success of the Arab crusaders in Palestine.

(17) Voice of New China:-- Issued from Nanking, China- Interception was ordered from 21-7-1939 to 24-7-1941 - A violently anti-British fornightly perodical expousing the Japanese Cause - Its editor L.K. Kentwell is notorious for his anti-British activities - His assistant, Naramsingh is an active Ghadarite.

(18) Kataragadda Balakrishna:-- Guntur - Correspondence was intercepted from 16-8-1939 to 24-7-1941 - An active communist having contact with communists living abroad -

(19) K.SRINIVASAN:-- Nungambakkam - Madras - Interception of correspondence from 21-7-1939 - later on arrested in connection with the Coimbatore communist conspiracy case. Secretary of the Radical youth League Pollachi - Noted for his strong socialist and anti-British tendencies - he is in correspondence with M.N. Roy and the well known Bengal communist Soumendra Nath Tagore - Had Plan for bringing about a revolt against imperialism.

(20) New India:-- A Newspaper published from New York, America by the Indian Welfare League - Interception of its record issued ordered from 22-5-1940 - It is extremely seditious attacking not only British rule in India but also Indian participation in the war.

(21) R.BALAN:-- Madras - Communist worker gone out of view - interception of correspondence for a period of one year was ordered from 15-10-1940.

(22) P.Nmasivaya Mudaliar:-- Vikramasingapuram - Ambasamudram - Interception of correspondence ~~addressee~~ for one year from 5-10-1940 - An accomodation addressee for the communists.

(23) Bhagavathla Lakshminarayana - Adovocate Mylopore Madras Interception of Correspondence for a period of one year form 8-10-1940.

(24) K. Brahmaya - George TownMadras - Interception of Correspondence was ordered from 7-10-1940 - He was the accomodation addresse for N.G. Ranga.

7 (25) C.H. Kunju Mohadeen:-- Contonment Vellore - Interception of correspondence was ordered for a period of one year from 10-10-1940 - An accomodation addressee was the detenus in vellore Jail.

(26) K.P. Keshava Rao -- Calicut - Interception of correspondence for one year from 15-11-1940 - An accomodation addressee for the communists.

(27) Dr. A.B. Nageswara Rao-- Rajahmundry Interception of correspondence for one year from 7-8-1940 - An accomodation addressee.

(28) A.M. Natarajan-- Ambasumadram - Interception of correspondence was ordered from 28-8-1940 - An accomodation addresse for the communistes.

(29) N.Rajagopalan:-- Chidambaram - Interception of Correspondence from 13-12-1940 for one year - An accomodation addressee for the communists.

(30) Bulletin entitled "call" - Published from Durban, South Africa - It contains leftiest taint and an under current of anti-British sentiments - Interception for one year from 16-11-1940.

(31) D.M. Shah - George Town Madras - Interception of correspondence for one year from 28-9-1940 An accomodation addressee for the communists.

(32) K.Ananthan Nambiyar - Clerk, office of the District Mechanical Engineer - S.I.R. Madura - Interception of correspondence for one year from 28-9-1940 - An accomodation addressee for the communists.

(33) Rev. Fr. F.P. Basenah and Rev. Fr. A. Sanaliere:- Loyala College- Madras - Interception of correspondence for one year from 18-11.1940.

(34) Mr. Denso and Mrs. Lemand:-- Nungambakkam - Madras Interception of correspondence for one year from 28-11.1940

(35) Dr. C. Dwarakanath and Mr. T.K. Swaminathn.

George Town Madras - Former is a German returned persons - Latter secretary of the Indian colonial society Political suspects - Interception of correspondence for one year from 29-11-1940;

(36)DrandMrs. V.N. Sarma:-- Nilgris - Dr. Sarma lived in Germany for some years and his wife is a German Woman - As it was thought desirable to know whether they are secretly carrying on any pro-German activities and Have any proGerman contacts; interception of correspondence was ordered for one year from 2-6-1940.

(37) V.Venkatarama Sastri - George Town - Madras advocate - Interception of correspondence was ordered from 30-8-1940 - An admirer of S.V- Ghate and supporter

of the communist group since the out break of war-he has been identifying himself with the underground activities of the city communist going by receiving 'Prejudicial reports and financing the establishment of the socialist head-quarters - He is in touch with absconding communists directly or though an accomadation address.

(38) P. Narayana Nair:-- Kerala - Secretary Kerala Provincial Congress Committtee - A socialitst communist and a registered political irresponsible of Malabar district He is in touch with agitators in other parts of India Interception of correspondence was ordered from 27th May 1940 for one year.

(39) K.P. Srinivasa Iyer - Vellore - Interception of correspondence was ordered for one year from 2-8-1940 - An accomodation addressee for M. Annapurnayya a political detenu in vellore Jail.

(40) K.Domodaran:-- Kerala Socialist - Secretary of the Kerala Provincial Congress committee Interception of correspondence for one year from 12-9-1940-

(41) "Who will win this war":-- An extremely anti-British book written by Rear Admiral Sekine, Published in Tokyo - Interception was ordered from 29-2-1940.

(42) M.Narayanan:-- Coimbatore - Interception of corespondence ordered for one year from 3-11.1940 - He is being used as an accomodation addressee by the members of the communist party.

(43) Whither England:-- A book by Anand Mohan Sahay: President of the Indian National association of Japan - Interception of it was ordered on 19-9-1940.

(44) K.Krishna Rao:-- Nellore - A person engaged in communist activities - Interception of correspondence was ordered for one year from 2-10-1940.

(45) Mario Mantessari :-- Adyar - Madras - ~~The-~~ Theosphical society - Interception of correspondence was ordered for one year from 2-10-1940.

(46) Rev. J.R.C. Dawson Bowling:-- American College, Madura - An Anti-British young man holding leftist view - opposed to war, hence very unpopular amongst the European community at Madura, Intercetpion of correspondence was ordered for a period of one year from 4-11-1940.

(47) Transpacific Review:-- Japan - A weekly review contaning anti- British ProSoviet and Pro German articles interception was ordered for a period of one year from 4-3-1940.

(48) S.V. Krishna Prasad - Madras - Student of Presidency College, a communist - An accredited representative to Madras of the communist party of India - He disseminates communist propaganda amongst students and is concerned with starting secret clubs in schools and colleges, interception of correspondence was ordered for a period of one year from 5-2-1940.

(49) T.V. Krishnan ;; Tiruppur - Coimbatore - Communist He is in touch with the communist outside the Province interception of correspondence was ordered for one year from 6-6-1940.

(50) S. Jambulingam:-- Tiruppur - Coimbatore - Communist, interception of correspondence was ordered from 6-6-1940 for a period of one year.

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S.F.NO. 513, Dated 1-8-1930.

Sub:--Travancore - Akalies as Satyagraha at Vaikom etc.

143.

S.F.No.524 Dated 18th May, 1926 and 1930.

Sub:--Tirumalai Acharya M.P.Proposed return to India -etc. Chempakaraman Pillai etc.

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Goethestrasse 16 A,
Berlin Charlottenburg,
Germany, 22nd July, 1924.

To

the Editor of "Navayuga"

G.V.Krishna Rao Esq., Guntur.

Dear Sir:

Will you be so good as to give publicity in your columns to the following letter which has been submitted by Mr.Chattopadhyaya, Dr.Bhupendranath Datta, and myself, to the German Government. The matter is one which deserves close attention of the Indian leaders.

To

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

Berlin.

From reports published in the German Press, we learn that, as a sequel to the attempt recently made in Cairo oh the life of Zaglul Pasha, certain extraordinary events hace taken place in Berlin, which we summarise ax follows:

1. The Egyptian "Consul" in Berlin, Ibrahim Ali, accompanied by his secretary, entered the apartments in Berlin formerly occupied by the Egyptian student who is alleged to have

committed the attentat, and arbitrarily undertook a house search and confiscated papers etc., Mr.Ibrahim Ali has thus violated the sovereign rights of the German State.

2. At the request of the "Egyptian Government", the German foreign office instructed the police to search the appartments of a number of Egyptain students of whom some were arrested. As far as our information goes, no substantial proofs were submitted to the German Government, and its official action was consequently taken on the basis of mere suspicion. The affair receives a comic touch through the fact that most of the arrested persons were Zaglulists opposed to the attentat.

3. We learn that during the cross-examination at the Police Station the "Egyptian Consults" of Berlin and Hamburg were present, not indeed in the capacity of witnesses, but of examiners. In the cross-examination they used the Arabic langugge which is not understood by the Police officers, and they went so far as to produce a crown witness. They acted as if they were the examining judges. It may be pointed out that the "Egyptian Consul" in Berlin was formerly a judge.

Im the interests of the Indian political refugees in Germany, and in defence of the right of political asylum, we, the undersigned, hereby lodge a protest with the German Government against the principles underlying the above-mentioned proceedure. In making this protest we do not express any kind of opinion regarding the attentat on Zaglul Pasha as such.

As, however, the present Egyptian Government is not an independent government in the sense in which

the word is understood in international relations, and as , in consequence, the so-called Egyptian Consults in Germany, who were nominated on the basis of the reforms recently granted by England to Egypt, are in reality merely consular attaches of the British Embassy, the situation that has been created by the above-mentioned occurrences is exactly similar to that which may arise any day in connection with India.

The German Government is undoubtedly aware that the Indian people are engaged in a struggle for the attainment of national independence, and that, notwithstanding the peaceful methods officially adopted by the Indian National Congress, there is a large and influential party in the country that believes in active resistance to the British Government, It may, therefore, easily happen, as has already so often happened during the last twenty years, that some member of an extremist group, e.g. in Calcutta or Bombay, under the stress of unbearable oppression by the British Government in India, may decide to commit an attentat on some English or Indian official of the Government.

In view of the fact that the presence of Indian political refugees in foreign countries is disagreeable to the British Government, by reason of their active support of the movement in their country it is quite possible that the German Government may receive a request from the British Government to arrest a number of Indians here on "suspicion".

Are we to understand that such a request would suffice for the German authorities to search the apartments of such persons and to arrest them? Or is the German Government, on the contrary, prepared to follow the excellent example of the British Government

in England, which protects political refugees against persecutions by local officials and grants them the fullest rights of asylum, even when it can be proved that they are actually implicated in so-called political crimes that may have been committed in the course of revolutionary movements in their countries.

The pre-war German Government was notorious for its want of appreciation of this doctrine of Asylum for political refugees and was, therefore, an object of severe hatred among people fighting for their social or national liberty.

We hoped that things had changed very much for the better in Germany in favour of liberty, but the recent occurrences in connection with the Egyptians are an ominous sign of the danger that faces members of foreign nationalities living in Germany under similar conditions.

We should be thankful if the German Government would make an unequivocal declaration of policy on this subject.

CONFIDENTIAL D.O.NO.4079-Poll. Government of India,
Home Department (Political).
Delhi, the 19th January, 1925.

My dear Macmicheal,

I am desired to say that information has been received from the India Office that the German Government is anxious to get rid of the seditious Indians residing in Germany, who, though welcome there during the war, are now regarded as inconvenient guests, and that His Majesty's Government have concurred in the proposal that the persons concenned should be deported to India provided that arrangements are made to ensure that they are carried to India on a German ship and not merely expelled to take shelter in some other country.

2. This decision makes it necessary to consider the action which should be taken in the case of the following individuals should their deportation be carried out as proposed.-

Chempakaraman Pillai--Madras
V.N.Chattopadhyaya--Bengal (apparently domiciled in Hyderabad Deccan).
Abani Mikherji (last heard of in Silesia) -- Bengal.
Mohd.Ali Alias Khushi Mohamed alias Ibrahim -- Punjab.
M.P.Tirumal Acharya - Madras.
M.N.Roy- --Bengal. doing imprisonment in India

M.N.Roay is now the most important member of the group and, as the local Government are aware, he was made an accused in the prosecution undertaken at Cawnpore. A warrant for his arrest is still extant. The other persons named are all trained intriguers, well imbued with Bolshevik ideas and methods, and the Government of India are of opinion that the question of dealing with them should be considered in anticipation of their return.

I am accordingly to suggest that the matter may be given early consideration and that the Government of India may be informed whether, and if so what, special measures are considered necessary in order to restrict or control the movements or activities of the persons with whom the Government of Madras are concerned in the event of their repatriation.

3. I am to add that the Secretary of State for India has been requested to furnish telegraphis information of the departure of any of these men for India and this will be promptly communicated to you on receipt.

Yours sincerely.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

From the Special Branch, Criminal Investigation Department,

No.208 S.Fs 100-4 86-1 dated 6th February, 1925.

Reference Public Department Memorandum No.14-8., dated 26/1-25.

The following is a brief history of individuals 1 & 5.

1. Chempakaraman Pillai is an "A" class suspect and his history sheet appears on page 1, Travancore Classified List of Political Suspects, Volume I, 2nd edition 1923. He left India in 1908.

In March 1922, the Director, Intelligence Bureau, reported that C.Pillai was the Berlin representative of the Provisional Government, was exceedingly active and held regular political meetings at which he preached Indian revolutionary doctrines with assiduity.

According to the Director, Intelligence Bureau's Weekly Report dated 8th November 1922, C.Pillai was the Secretary of the Orient Club in Berlin and maintained a close connection with Egyptians, Turks, Japanese and other Orientals there.

The last time we heard of him was when he sent copies of a letter which, Chattopadhyaya and Dr,B.Datta had sent to the German Government, to certain Indian Newspapers for publication, wide No.989/C, dated 11th August, 1924.

C.Pillai left India when he was a boy of 17 His activities have been mostly in Europe and most of the information we have on record about him was supplied by the Director, intelligence Bureau. He appears on page 53

(No.13474) of M.I.5 Black List - Vol.XXI (Indian Volume).

5. M.P.Tirumalai Acharya is also an "A" class suspect and his history sheet appears on page 4, Madras Classified List, Vol.I, 2nd edition 1923. He originally belonged to Mysore but his family settled in Madras many years ago. He left India in 1908.

He appears on page 4 (No.13365) of M.I.5.Black List Vol.XXI (Indian Volume).

A warrant under sections 124-A, 153-A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code, issued by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, in 1909, is still out-standing against him.

Both these men must be counted as distinctly dangerous.

As Chempakaraman Pillai is a native of Travancore, we should have no control over him unless he came into this Presidency. Restrictions on his movements in that state are not likely to be enforced so strictly as in British India, and so his return to Travancore would be a source of grave anxiety to this Presidency for he would certainly organise trouble for it from the comparative safety of his native State. If he is brought back to India, he should certainly be dealt with under Regulation III of 1818.

M.P.Tirumalai Acharya might be dealt with under the sections of the I.P.C., for which a warrant is outstanding against him, vide strictly confidential G.O.No.1143, Judicial, dated 31/8/09, but it is extremely doubtful whether at this distant date, the necessary evidence would be forthcoming to prove the charges. The file relating to it is apparently, in the office of the Commissioner of Police. It would seem preferable, therefore, to proceed against him also under Regulation III of 1818

for it would be very dangerouus to leave him at large.

SECRET

My dear Crerar,

Political suspects in Europe - Expulsion to India.

Your D.O.No.4079-Poll, dated 19th January 1925 I am to say that the Madras Government are primarily concerned with Chempakaram Pillai and M.P.Tirumal Acharya.

Chempakaramam*Pillai is a native of Travancore and left India in 1908 at the age of 17. He was not at that time dangerouus and such information as the Madras Government have received of his activities in Europe ~~xxxx~~ has been derived from the Director of the Intelligence Bureau. It appears that when ~~xxx~~ in Germany he was associating with revolutionaries and communists and on these grounds he should be watched carefully.

If he returns to India I am to say tthat the Madras Government presume that he will be returned to Travancore. It will not be difficult to have a close watch kept upon his movements, so that prompt action can be taken if he appears to be dangerous. But the Madras Government do not consider that there is any necessity to restrict his movements from the time of his arrival.

M.P.Tirumalai Achari is a more dangerous man that Chempakaramam Pillai. There is still outstand against him a warrant under sec.124 A, 153-A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code, issued in 1919. But it is doub ful whether at this distant date it wi ll be eigher possible or practicable to enforce the warr ant. The Government are however convinced that it wo uld be very

dangerous to leave him at large and would therefore prefer to proceed against him under Regn III of 1818 in the first instance. This would enable the Government to restrict his movements from the time of his arrival and would be effective till the Government had come to a decision as to whether the case against him should be revived. If no action was taken against him immediately there would be considerable danger that he would make his way to Pondicherry and there he would be free from arrest and a potential source of great danger.

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magazine entitled "Pro-India"
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HISTORY SHEET OF CHEMPAKARAMAN PILLAI S/O
Shinnaswami Pillai; Caste Villala,
Native place - Trivandrum.
Education - 6th Form
Knows German very fluently. Studied
Engineering in Germany.

History:--When Sir Walter William Strickland Baronet of Yorkshire (now a citizen of Czechoslovakia) visited Trivandrum in 1907 to 1908 he took a fancy to Chempakaraman Pillai and sent him to Germany to be educated and to study engineering. In 1914 information was received that Sir William and Pillai had fallen out, and that the latter was then in desperate straits. Pillai was, however, being supplied with a certain amount of money by his people. The cause of the quarrel between Strickland and Pillai was subsequently found to be due to the former's accentricity and his failure to help Pillai financially when the latter found himself in difficulties.

In 1912 Pillai formed the "Pro-India Committee" in Zurich, and issued a circular, along with the German author, Karl Bleibtran, Sir Walter Strickland and Shamji Krishna Varma, with the object of assembling all the Indians in Zurich holding extreme views.

In 1914, in order to further the objects of this committee, a monthly magazine entitled "Pro-India" was started by him. Prior to the starting of this magazine, Pillai contributed violent anti-British articles in the "Der Wanderer" of Zurich.

In the beginning of 1943 an intimate friend of Pillai's stated in Zurich that both he as well as Pillai, knew of the Delhi bomb outrage, before the news

was published in the Continental Press.

Throughout 1913 Pillai toured in the U.S.A., France, Germany, Austria and Hungary, and was in contact with Krishna Varma, Vladimir, Burtzew (a notorious Russian revolutionary), Madame Cama and others.

During 1914 he was active in pushing the circulation of his magazine, "Pro-India", and he carried on correspondence with Krishna Varma, Hardyal (the well known Indian revolutionary) Professor Deussen of the Kiel University, Madame Cama and many others who were interested in Pillai's propaganda. He attended the Socialist gathering at Zurich where he moved a resolution against British rule in India. In May he met Hardayal and Mrs Friede Munger (a friend of Tarak Nath Das). In October he suddenly left for Munich (or Berlin). It was reported that he was about to be sent by the German Foreign Office on a mission to Constantinople.

In January 1915 he joined the German Intelligence Department in Berlin and worked in company with Chattopadhyaya, who was then at the head of a German Government Intelligence Bureau called the Indian National Party. On March 14th he wrote to Zurich expressing the hope that the Germans would win the war since that would mean "the crushing of England for ever". In May he placed an order for several thousand copies of Byran's British Rjle in India which, was being printed in German. At the same time he expressed a desire to obtain some other anti-British literature because, he said, "it is necessary to attack the English right and left."

In May and June 1915 he was in Geneva in Company with Chattopadhyaya and Krishna Varma. The object of their visit to Geneva was to smuggle seditious pamphlets

into France or Italy.

Shortly afterwards he met, in Zurich Douwes Dekker, a Javanese revolutionary, and asked him to act as an agent in Zurich for the distribution of anti-British literature, which would be despatched from Berlin. Sometime later Pillai, accompanied by Barkatulla, again met Dekker, and discussed with him schemes for sending arms into India. He tried to persuade Dekker to go to Bangkok for the purpose of smuggling seditious literature and anti-British war news into India. Pillai said that he had large funds at his disposal for the Bangkok scheme, and he made no secret of the fact that the Germans were at his back. Dekker having agreed to go, received from Pillai a German Foreign Office Code and a letter of introduction to Ram Chandra (the notorious Ghadrite) in San Francisco. This letter of introduction was written by Hardayal. He gave Dekker £600 for travelling expenses, and supplied him also with a map of the Siamese frontier. He promised a further salary of £500 per mensem for the work to be done by Dekker in Bangkok.

Throughout 1915 Pillai was busy sending out seditious literature published by the Indian National Party. In December he sent some of this literature to Sant Nihal Singh who was then in England.

In July1916 he was reported to be working in Constantinople, from where he returned to Berlin at the end of August, with the object of finding some one to assist him in his pro-German activities in Constantinople.

In March 1917 he delivered an anti-British Lecture in Berlin before a large and enthusiastic audience.

In July 1917 he was indicated <u>in absentia</u> at San

Francisco on the charge of conspiracy to send a military expedition against British India.

After the fall of Kut-el-Amara, Pillai went to Constantinople with an elaborate plan, prepared by the German Foreign Office, in colloboration with the Berlin Indian Committee, for raising an Indian Nationalist Army Corps from amongst the prisoners-of-war and Indians resident in Mesopotamia, Turkey and Syria. It was intended that this force should be used against the British, on the Indian froontyer if possible, and if not, in Persia, Pillai again visited constantinople later in the year in company with Bhupendra Nath Dutt and Chattopadhyaya (both notorious revolutionaries) with the object of inducing the Turkish Government to reconsider their refusal to countenance the formation of a special Indian army corps, Pillai visited the Indian prisoners' ~~xxxxx~~.camp at Zossen and preached sedition there.

In February 1918, he was entertained by the "Great Berlin Branch" of the German Vaterlandspartei and delivered a lecture entitled "English Tyranny in India". He subsequently repeated this lecture at Cologue. About this time the "german-India League" was formed, with Pillai as Secretary; In October a new series of his magazine "Pro-India" was started by Pillai.

In June 1919, Pillai attended a meeting at Berlin and moved a resolution protesting against the Peace Terms as being "a mockery of Justice", and he demanded freedom for all oppressed nations.

In October, 1919 he was appointed General Secretary of the "International Oppressed Nations' Society" in Berlin, and was the unofficial secretary of the Secret Branch of that Society.

In September 1921, Pillai associated with Chotani and Abdul Rahman Siddiqi during their visit to Berlin.

In January 1922, he delivered a lecture under the auspices of the "League of Oppressed People", Charlottenburg, on "India's fight for freedom" and the "Gandhi movement". At this time he frequently held political meetings in Berlin and preached revolutionary doctrines. He was also reported to be the Berlin representative of Mahendra Partap's "Provisional Government" in Kabul.

In June 1922, he attended a secret meeting of Indians in Berlin which was convened to denounce M.N. Roy's Indian Communist Party as being a tool in the hands of the Bolsheviks; and an appeal to this effect was drawn up, but Pillai declined to sign it on the ground that Russia was the only country friendly to India.

About the end of 1922, Pillai was Secretary of the "Orient Club", which organised an anti-British demonstration outside the British Embassy in Berlin, and was connected with the publication of the paper - "Neue Orient".

In April 1923, Pillai was elected a member of the "Hindustan Association" in Berlin.

In ~~xxxxxx~~ October, 1923, he formed the "Indian Social Union" in Berlin. This appeared to be chiefly an anti-Muslim organisation.

In August 1923, he wrote to Chotani requesting the latter to supply him with news regarding the political situation in India.

In March 1923, he wrote to Chotani and several Indian editors requesting them, on behalf of his "Indian Bureau of Commerce and Industry", to give publicity to his printed circulars, in which he invited Indian manufacturers and tradesmen to exhibit their goods at the Leipzing Fair in September 1924. He added that he would give them all necessary assistance.

In July 1924, he addressed letters to several Indian newspapers, requesting them to give pub publicity to an enclosed copy of a representation addressed to the German Foreign Secretary, protesting against the action of the Egyptian Conxult in Berlin, under whose orders a number of house searches were made after the attempt on the life of Zaglul Pasha. The representation stated, inter-alia, that on similar lines the right of sanctuary of Indian political offenders would be invaded by the British, who, he alleged, were responsible for the action of the Eguptian Consul. Besides Pillai, the well known revolutionaries Bhupendra Nath Dutt and Chattopadhyaya signed this representation.

At the end of 1924, Pillai was reported to be actively supporting the German Nationalist Party in Company with Chattopendhyaya and Dutt, in the hope that whould this Party come out on top in the elections, they would be granted preferences in Germany.

Letter from Mr.P.M.T. Acharya,
Berlin W.62
Landgrafenstrasse 3s.

To
The Acting British Consul.
Berlin.

15th February, 1926.

Dear Sir,

As you insist again upon giving my statement even before your giving the passport, I do so in spite of my not being convinced of the propriety of the procedure.

I have been giving publicity to the facts of poverty of the Indian people under British rule and the consequent Indian national movement, facts taken out of English and other published sources. Thus I have been doing propaganda against English rule in India. I have been doing this before, during and after the War till 1922. Since then I have come to the conclusion that there is no use or necessity for such activities. I am, therefore, not doing it any longer.

I am also a convinced anti-Bolshevik. I am further free from the politics of any kind of party or government and shall not take part in their activities nor even look upon them with sympathy or toleration. I am only concerned with the assurance of my steady living for the rest of my years and that peacefully.

I request you to consider this statement as being above all details and arguments which may be adduced

by you or me, as it is in fact the sum and and substance of what may be said o both sides. I hope the matter is clear at least as regards the future.

I cannot make a longer statement for the reasons mentioned in my last letter.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) M.P.T.ACHARYA.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

From the Special Branch, Criminal Investigation Department,

No.679 Dated 24th March, 1930.

M.P.Tirumalai Acha i of Berlin, whose history sheet is attached, is a dangeour revolutionary, thoroughly anti-British and a prolific writer and has been carrying on an intensive anti-British propaganda ever since his exodus from India. He frequently contributes objectionable articles to several extremist organs in India and maintains an undesirable correspondence with various Indian nationalists.

In view of his unsavoury record, it is very desirable that his correspondence should be intercepted and it is, therefore, requested that an order, under Section ~~x260x~~ 26 (1) of the Indian Post Office Act for a period of one year, may be passed.

Three copies of a draft order are submitted.

HISTORY SHEET.

Class:-A

Name:- Mandyam Parthasarathi Tirumalai Achari alias Acharya alies Mohammad Akbar alias Pratibadi Bhayankar.

Son of:-M.P.Narasimha Achari (deceased) Gaste:--Mandyam Brahmin.

Native Place:-Originally Myssore, but the family settled in Madras later .

Residence:--Germany.

Age 42/1929.

Education:--Knows French, German, Swedish, Russian and Turkish.

Occupation:--Correspondent for newspaoers.

Histroy:-- Tirumalai Achari was an associate of C. Subrahmanya Bharathi in Pondicherry and one of the promoters of the seditious Tamil paper India.
Before he left Madras, although a mere youth, he was known as a seditious character and was registered printer and publisher of the India from August to November 1907. He was then replaced by Srimivasa Ayyanger (convicted for sedition on the 13th November 1908 and sentenced to five years' transportation), but continued his connection with the paper. In consequence of this a warrant for his arrest, which is still in force, was issued under section 124-A., I.P.C. in August 1909. When the press was removed to Pondicherry on the arrest of the editor in July 1908, Tirumalai Achari signed papers as proprietor of the India until he left for Europe in November 1908, when he handed over the management to his cousin, S.Srinivasa Achari, with whom he continued to correspond.

In London he lived at "India House" from January 1909 until the house was closed just before the Curzon-Wyllie murder (1st July 1909). It was reported just before this that Savarker and other s were urging him to become a "mattyr" and he appears to have had leanings in that direction as he chose as an alias, when he attended the Egyptian National Congress at Brussels (Septr.1910) the name of Bhayankaram, which means the "terrifit" or "Awe inspiring" one.

He is said to have copied out for the press most of the English version of V.D.Savarkar's book on the mutiny.

An August 1909, he and Sukh Sagar Dutt (brother of Ullaskar Dutt, one of the bomb-makers of the Maniktolla Garden gang)sstarted for Tangiers to join the Riffs against the Spaniards and learn guerilla warfare. Dutt returned from Gibraltar, but Tirumalai Achari got to Tangiers where he was looked after for a month by a friendly moor. He found it impossible to join the Riffs, and on V.V.Subrahmanya Ayyar's instructions returned via Lisbon to Paris, where he arrived in October 1909.

He remained in Paris, associating constantly with the lezding conspirators and residing during part of the time at S.R.Rana's office, 56 Rue Lafayette, until November 1910, when he left for Berlin. He does not seem to have done much there, and on Apr[illegible] 14th 1911, was found to be in Munich, and complain[illegible] that he had not heard from V.V.Subrahmanya Ayyar V.Chattopadhyaya for a long time.

[illegible]attopadhyaya's [illegible]t. From his [illegible] following has

From Munich he went on to Constantinople. He had introductions to people there from Ajit Singh, but he did not receive nearly such good treatment as he expected, and during his stay there could hardly keep body and soul together. In 1922, he went on to New York, when he was heard of living at the same address as Chandra Kanta Chakravarti.

Tirumalai Achari was reepoted in 1914 to be an office bearer of the Hindustan Association and attended their meeting at New York on the 25th April 2954. He is said to have received translations of old Ghadr newspapers from V.P.Ayyar for correction.

During the war he joined the German-Indian gang and was also a member of the Indian Nationalist Committee. He wrote in Feby. 1919 from Fribourg to V.V.Subrahmanya Ayyar that he had been working in Europe and America and also in Baghdad and expressed the hope of seeing him when things settled down. There is reason to believe that Tirumalai Achari was in Kabul with the Bolshevik Legation from Russia in 1920 and in Moscow in 1921-22 employed in translation work for Bolshevik propaganda in India. At the end of 1922 he arrived in Berlin with a Russianwife from Moscow. It is believed that he has fallen out of favour with the Third International and will probably join Chattopadhyaya's party. He was still in Berlin in June 1923.

History from 1923-1929.

He is still abroad. He joined Chattopadhyaya's party in Berlin with whom also he fell out. From his correspondence to people in India, the following has been gathered:--

He is both anti-British and anti-Soviet, belonging to the lvth or Communist Workers International. He castigates the Russian Soviet system and its hirelings in Great Britain, and described the Russian leaders as oppressors of the Communist workers.

Dislikes M.N.Roy intensely and denunciates him, levelling him with accusations whenever opportunity presents itself. He has often referred to him as a treacherous <u>agent provocateur.</u>

He states that he has travelled extensively and has visited England, America, Russia, Afghanistan and Germany and knows French, German Swedish and Russian.

Achari is in a precarious condition for his existence and lives somehow by his wits, contributing articles to the European Revolutionary Labour Press on the Indian movement etc. All his letters to India have contained requests for financial help; he invariably offers his services as a paid correspondent to Indian newspapers.

He is a revolutionary and his views, as may be seen from his writings are thoroughly anti-Government. He does not believe in any kind of legal co-operation with operation for the liberation of India. He states that he has been uncompromising with Government and will continue to remain so.

In 1926 he was in touch with his relatives, then residing at Bangalore, who persuaded him to abandon his political leanings and to return to India. Shortly afterwards, he contemplated returning to India and applied

for a passport to the British Consul at Berlin, but was refused. He was, however, offered an emergency certificate on certain conditions.

He is distinctly dangerous, believes in violence and is the "anarchosyndicalist" of Berlin. There is an order pending against him for his arrest and detention in the Madras Penitentiary under the provision of the Madras State Prisoners Regulation, 1819, but it is very doubtful as to whether he will ever return to India.

He continues to be in regular communication with politicians in India with whom he discusses communism and the labour movement. He claims to be a correspondent of the Bombay Chronicle and to contribute to the Forward, Calcutta.

He occassionally sends matter for publication in the Swarajya and the Vasantha, Kodialbail.

He recently addressed a letter to the Dewan of Mysore for a stipend to learn fruit gardening or cinematography.

Achari admits that his past activities have brought him to a "sorry pass" and that he can scarcely earn enought to furnish even the bare necessaries of life. He is desirous of returning to India but is evidently afraid to do so.

870/15/86
111/87
61/4/91/RH
558/RH/23/8/2001
LS/82
RH/04
RI
17/10/2012
450/RH/85
577/RI/84